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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/829,935	04/11/2001	Kohei Ushio	205753US3	7704

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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

MCCAMEY, ANN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 08/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/829,935

Applicant(s)

USHIO ET AL.

Examiner

Ann M McCamey

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-11, 15, 16 and 20-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 12-14, 17-19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 21.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Prosecution on the merits of this application is reopened on claims 1, 2 and 4-23 considered unpatentable for the reasons indicated below:

Doorhy et al. (US 6,371,793), submitted as part of an IDS filed 1/30/03, but not entered until 5/1/03, anticipates several of the previously allowed claims.

Applicant is advised that the Notice of Allowance mailed 2/25/03 is vacated. If the issue fee has already been paid, applicant may request a refund or request that the fee be credited to a deposit account. However, applicant may wait until the application is either found allowable or held abandoned. If allowed, upon receipt of a new Notice of Allowance, applicant may request that the previously submitted issue fee be applied. If abandoned, applicant may request refund or credit to a specified Deposit Account.

Claim Objections

Claim 15 is objected to because of the following informalities: "an image" (line 1) should be --an image apparatus--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the

applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 15, 16 and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Doorhy et al. (US 6,371,793).

Regarding claim 1, Doorhy et al. disclose a connector which removably attaches to an apparatus and contains electronic parts, comprising:

a plug housing 30 including a back face and holding at least one contact 32;

a cover housing 24 combined with the plug housing; and

a circuit board 50 held by the plug housing, the cover housing and the at least one contact, the circuit board electrically connected to the apparatus via the at least one contact;

wherein the cover housing includes guide grooves 25 configured to guide the plug housing in a sliding motion, and edge sections of the circuit board and edge sections of the plug housing both are slideable in the guide grooves.

Regarding claim 2, Doorhy et al. disclose the plug housing and the cover housing being combined with each other and slidable relative to each other in a direction parallel with a surface of the circuit board.

Regarding claim 4, Doorhy et al. disclose the circuit board being connected with the plug housing such that the circuit board covers an open portion of the plug housing thereby forming a closed cross-section with the plug housing.

Regarding claim 5, Doorhy et al. disclose a unit including the plug housing, the circuit board and a contact unitarily assembled into the cover housing.

Regarding claim 6, Doorhy et al. disclose a forward end of a holding member which holds the circuit board and an exposed end portion of the at least one contact penetrating the circuit board located on the back face of the plug housing.

Regarding claim 7, Doorhy et al. disclose the cover housing including a protruding section configured to attach to the cartridge of electronic parts.

Regarding claim 8, Doorhy et al. disclose a lock section configured to lock both the plug housing and the cover housing, which are combined with each other and are arranged in a space surrounded by the plug housing and the cover housing.

Regarding claims 9, 11 and 16, the limitation of the cartridge of electronic part being a cartridge of toner has not been given patentable weight since it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

Regarding claim 10, Doorhy et al. disclose a connector comprising:
a plug housing 30 including a back face;
a cover housing 24 combined with the plug housing; and
a circuit board 50 fixed to the back face and held by both housings;
wherein the cover housing includes means for attaching to the side plate of the cartridge of electronic parts.

Regarding claim 15, Doorhy et al. disclose a connector system comprising:
a cartridge of electronic parts;
a plug housing 30 including a back face and holding at least one contact;

a cover housing 24 combined with the plug housing; and
a circuit board 50 held by the plug housing, the cover housing and the contact, the circuit board electrically connector to the apparatus via the at least one contact.

Regarding claim 20, Doorhy et al. disclose a forward end of a holding member which holds the circuit board and an exposed end portion of at least one lead penetrating the circuit board terminate on substantially a same face at a rearmost portion of the connector.

Regarding claim 21, Doorhy et al. disclose a connector which removably attaches to an apparatus and contains electronic parts, comprising:

a plug housing 30 including a back face and holding at least on contact;
a cover housing 24 combined with the plug housing; and
a circuit board 50 held by the plug housing, the cover housing and the at least one contact, the circuit board electrically connected to the apparatus via the at least one contact;

wherein the plug housing and the cover housing are combined with east other and are slideable relative to each other in a direction parallel with a surface of the circuit board.

Regarding claim 22, Doorhy et al. disclose a connector which removably attaches to an apparatus and contains electronic parts, comprising:

a plug housing 30 including a back face and holding at least one contact;
a cover housing 24 combined with the plug housing; and

a circuit board 50 held by the plug housing, the cover housing and the at least one contact, the circuit board electrically connected to the apparatus via the at least one contact;

wherein a unit including the plug housing, the cover housing and a contact are unitarily assembled into the cover housing;

wherein a forward end of a holding member which holds the circuit board and an exposed end portion of a lead penetrating the circuit board are located on the back face of the plug housing.

Regarding claim 23, Doorhy et al. disclose the cover housing including a protruding section configured to attach to the cartridge of electronic parts.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 12-14 and 17-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: prior art fails to teach the circuit board including memory configured to communicate with the apparatus. This limitation, in combination with the other limitations of the claims, is neither anticipated by nor obvious over the art of record.

Conclusion

Applicant's submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR 1.97(c) with the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) on 1/30/03 prompted the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 609(B)(2)(i). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ann M McCamey whose telephone number is (703) 305-3422. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9318 for regular communications and (703) 872-9319 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

AMM

July 8, 2003

P. AUSTIN BRADLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800